

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD

FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030



NRA

Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

State Capitol

Hartford, CT 06106-1562

Dear Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee Member:

On behalf of the National Rifle Association (NRA) and its members in Connecticut, I am writing to express our strong opposition to H.5653. This legislation creates a state excise tax on ammunition that would involve a 2 cent-per-round levy on ammunition .22 caliber and less, and a five cent-per-round tax on all other ammunition. In an economy where everything costs more because of crippling inflation, this tax will be painful and ultimately discourage training and safe firearm handling. It will do nothing to impact criminals.

Ammunition is already heavily taxed. In addition to Connecticut sales tax, a 11 percent federal excise tax is charged on ammunition purchases. Ultimately, the tax hike included in H.5653 will be perceived as punitive while doing nothing to improve public safety.

This legislation would drive Connecticut residents to buy ammunition out of state, hurting Connecticut businesses and actually generating less tax revenue. Further, this legislation could result in negative impacts for Connecticut conservation projects as any decline in ammunition sales in the state would lower the state's allocation of federal Pittman Robertson dollars.

For these reasons, I would respectfully ask that you vote against H.5653. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at dgoens@nrahq.org, or 703-267-1223. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darin Goens".

Darin Goens

State Director, NRA-ILA